



2300 Lake Elmo Drive  
Billings, MT 59105

## NOTICE OF DECISION

October 16, 2008

TO: Environmental Quality Council  
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks\*

Director's Office	Lands Section
Parks Division	Design & Construction
Fisheries Division	Legal Unit
Wildlife Division	Federal Aid Coordinator (when P-R, D-J project)
Regional Supervisors	

Mike Volesky, Governor's Office \*  
Sarah Elliott, Press Agent, Governor's Office\*  
Maureen Theisen, Governor's Office\*  
Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
Montana State Library  
George Ochenski  
Montana Environmental Information Center  
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation  
FWP Commissioner Shane Colton\*  
DNRC Area Manager, Southern Land Office  
County Commissioners  
Other Local Interested People or Groups  
\* (Sent electronically)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

From September 10 to October 10, 2008, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was circulated for suppressing nonnative fishes in two tributaries of the Yellowstone River near Big Timber, MT, through mechanical removal, and transferring pure Yellowstone cutthroat trout within one watershed and to another creek near Red Lodge. The streams involved were Upper and Lower Deer creeks and Thiel Creek. Legal notices were posted in all local newspapers, and a landowner meeting was attended on October 4. Responses to comments offered at the meeting and via letters, emails, calls and visits are included in the attachment.

After reviewing this proposal and corresponding comments, it is my decision to proceed with this project as proposed. If you have questions regarding this decision notice or wish a copy of the final EA, you may email me at [ghammond@mt.gov](mailto:ghammond@mt.gov), or call Jim Darling at 247-2961.

Sincerely,

Gary Hammond  
Regional Supervisor

Enclosure